Illiteracy among Women

2897. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illiteracy among women still persists in the country;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by Government in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the number of illiterate women, State-wise, if it is not possible to remove the illiteracy among the women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Census operations conducted at an interval of ten years collect, inter-alia data pertaining to literacy. The latest information regarding the number of illiterate women is contained in the Census report of 1981. According to 1981 Census (excluding Assam) women literacy was 24.82 per cent.

(d) Government of India has initiated the following specific educational/literacy programmes for removal of adult illiteracy among women through National Policy on Education 1986 and Programme of Action:

(i) Emphasis on enrolment of atleast 50 per cent women in on-going adult education programmes through Rural Functional Literacy Projects, State Adult Education Projects, Voluntary Agencies, Universities/Colleges and programmes under other schemes. Programme of Action provides for a phased time bound programme of adult education for women in the age group: 15-35 by 1995.

(ii) Emphasis on opening of non-formal education centres for girls and women on 90:10 pattern for all educationally backward pockets of the country

(iii) Appointment of women instructors/teachers for women adult education/non-formal centres.

As the National Policy on Education 1986 and Programme of Action have been adopted by the Parliament, all the States/Union Territories are expected to adopt similar strategies for the programmes being implemented by them.

Repairs/renovation/renowal of railway stations, offices and tracks in Gujarat

2898. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that repairs, renovations and renewal have been done on any railway Stations, offices and railway tracks in various parts of Gujarat on Western Railway during 1st January, 1982 to 31st July, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names and places of each railway station, offices and railway tracks;

(c) how much amount has been spent on each one separately, yearwise, during the period;

(d) what were the actual plans, projects and estimates;

(e) whether more amount have been spent in comparison to original plans;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the complaints of corruption, irregularities bribes, etc. have been received in granting and providing facilities to contractors, etc.;

(h) if so, the details of enquiries made in this regard and the action taken against persons involved therein; and